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Newsletter
Number 01
7 February 2014



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Welcome to the 2014 school year. A special welcome to our new families.

Early Thanks

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

...to those parents & grandparents who made our 2013 prize giving so special and to all of those children who were called to the stage.

...to parents who acted early to ensure children were well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

People of the week

.. Ben who achieved the following places at the recent Colgate Games ... 2nd in his 200m sprint, 3rd in his 60m sprint, 4th in his 100m sprint, 4th in long jump. Ben competed against athletes from all around New Zealand. A phenomenal achievement Ben. Well done!

.. those children who kept their reading up over the holidays - and especially those who used the Whangarei Public Library reading programme.

.. Mrs Donaldson for her work in preparing the school for the introduction of the Maths Whizz Programme.

.. Former students who achieved well at their secondary schools in 2013 - some stunning achievements.

Virtues Programme – enjoying learning – “small things matter”

This year our virtues will link with the concept of enjoying learning (the final component of our Mission Statement). We want all children to have fun while learning and will explore what this means, and what it looks like in practice. A huge amount of research tells us that lasting enjoyment (and self-esteem) come from positive attitudes, positive relationships and a job well done. Often it comes from attending to the little things in life. Some of you may know that Rudolph Giuliani, while mayor of New York City, proved you could dramatically reduce crime rates in one of America's most dangerous cities by focussing on small things like graffiti and litter. So ... we will be talking to the children about manners .. please, thank you, excuse me, smiling and saying good morning, the value of taking turns, letting others go first, holding a door open for someone, including a new person in your games, clapping others when they do well etc. We think big things will grow from this. But the best thing about this is that we get a chance to practice these virtues ourselves and to celebrate together when children demonstrate these at home and around the school. At the end of the newsletter you will read about a student who quite spontaneously attended to one of those “little things” this week.

Sunhats

A reminder that school bucket sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website. If you would like your newsletter emailed to you please advise Helen next week.

Term Events

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar (a few are tentative). We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

12 Feb	Junior Marine Day - at school
13 Feb	Junior Marine Day - Pool day (more to follow)
24/25 Feb	Parent / teacher conferences (please keep one of these afternoons free)
26-28 Feb	Trikids programme
10 Mar	Zone swimming Sports at Kokopu School
18-21 Mar	Year 5/6 camp at Russell
20-21 Mar	Junior marine snorkel at Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve
19 Mar	Year 7/8 Tennis Doubles Tournament
16 Apr	2014 Youth Summit
17 April	Final day for term 1
5 May	Commencement of term 2

Term Dates for 2012

Term 1 - 3.2.14 to 17.4.14	Term 2 - 5.5.14 to 4.7.14
Term 3 - 21.7.14 to 26.9.14	Term 4 - 13.10.14 to (likely) 19.12.14 (to be confirmed)

Junior school dates For Experiencing Marine reserves

1. Marine biodiversity and conservation presentation
Wednesday 12 February 2014 at school
2. Introductory pool snorkel
Thursday 13th February
3. Marine reserve snorkel at Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve
Thursday 20th March (Rooms 2/6/7) and Friday the 21st March (Rooms 3/4/5).
Weather call to be made by Tuesday 18th March mid-day for Thursday (details later)

Session times and further details on the pool sessions (13.2) were sent home in a newsletter this week. If you did not receive this letter, or if you have any questions, please phone the school office or drop by to see your child's teacher.

If you have not yet returned your consent please get this to school on Monday so that we can finalise arrangements. Further offers of supervision would be gratefully received.

Thanks you / people of the week Darrell and Stacey Hamilton for allowing use of their pool for junior snorkel sessions.

For new parents, staffing for 2014 is as follows...

Room 12	Mr Delemare	Year 7 & 8	Deputy Principal Responsible for the Senior School (Rooms 11-12)
Room 11	Mrs Donaldson	Year 7 & 8	
Room 10	Mrs Gunson	Year 5 & 6	
Room 9	Mr Schuster	Year 5 & 6	Senior Teacher Responsible for the Middle School (Rooms 8-10)
Room 8	Miss Gentil	Year 4	
Room 7	Mrs Milicich	Year 3	
Room 6	Miss Griffin	Year 3	
Room 5	Miss Blundell	Year 2	
Room 4	Miss Bevin	Year 2	
Room 3	Mrs Burgin	Year 1	
Room 2	Mrs Marvin	Year 1	
Room 1	Mrs Robertson	Year 1	Assistant Principal

Responsibility for the Junior school (Rooms 1-7)
Room 1 Commences mid year numbers permitting

Mrs Comrie
Mrs Abbott
Mrs Sloper

ESOL / Special Needs
ORS (special needs) teacher / senior teacher release
Teacher release

Support staff are as follows:

Mrs Dorahy
Mrs Crawford
Mrs Neumann
Mrs Wynyard
Mrs Sinclair
Mrs Pol
Mrs Veenis
Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Cates
Mr Palmer

Office Administration
Teacher Aide / PMP
Teacher Aide / Oral language programme
Teacher Aide / PMP
Teacher Aide / Accounts / PMP
Teacher Aide
Teacher Aide
IT Support
Library/ Principal PA / ESOL
Grounds / Caretaker

Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance (Necessary in the event that our rolls are audited by the Ministry of Ed).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee

The Board is grateful for payment of school contributions and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, enable us to employ additional teacher aides, expand special needs hours, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement (\$90 per child) or \$25 per term. The trips and events fee is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year. While this can also be paid quarterly, we do prefer full payment at the beginning of the year if this is possible.

If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

After School Labs

We have had a number of enquires about when after school labs will be up and running. Labs this year will focus primarily on growing competencies in mathematics, and will combine the (soon to be implemented) Maths Whizz programme with targeted support and instruction in areas of need. Shortly we will be running some maths diagnostic tests to give us the most up to date information on which children, and what needs, seem to stand out. Parents will be contacted within the next week or two if we think your child is especially likely to benefit from inclusion. Labs will run Mondays and Thursdays 3:40 to 4:40 (please note the slightly later times). Only children in years 4 to 8 will be eligible for placement. There will be a small fee for inclusion this year of \$60 for a full term's instruction to be paid in advance (\$3 per lesson). A limited number of places will be opened to non-Matarau students starting from term 2. Non-Matarau students will pay a non-subsidised fee of somewhere between \$300 and \$400 per student. Any questions please feel free to give Kevin a call. (We will run science and literacy labs later in the year - more to follow)

Junior School Request - If anyone has spare clean newspaper, the Junior School would be most appreciative. Please deliver to Mrs Marvin in Room 2.

The Mobile Ear Clinic

.. will be outside the Bush Road Medical Centre 9:00-3:00 Thursday 13 March and Thursday 10 April. No appointments necessary. Pre-schoolers welcome.

Year 5/6 Parent Camp Meeting - Tues 18 February

Interested parents, and especially those who think they may be able to attend camp, are invited to the above meeting to take place in the staffroom starting 7:00 PM 18 February. Consent forms were sent home today for return as soon as possible please. Any questions please contact Mr Schuster.

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 24 and 25 February - an interview booking sheet will be sent out shortly. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

Special Needs Programme

If your child has been selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's special needs programmes please return consent forms on Monday so that we can get these programmes up and running. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is anticipated.

Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call. Many thanks.

Pool Keys

Due to the pending demolition and structural upgrade of our changing sheds we regret to advise that the school swimming pool is unlikely to be available for use this year. Those holding pool keys may hold these until next season or return them to school.

Bus Times

Buses times and routes are as at the end of last year. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

Children travelling by bus from Kamo will be picked up at GJ Gardner Homes at 7:45 in the morning, and dropped at the Cleaning Oasis at the end of the day by (around) 4:20 PM. Plenty of room on this bus and so well and truly open to new users. Fee of \$2 per trip to be given to the bus driver.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.

Early Buses - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 24 and 25 Feb because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

Pick up of Children - safety during construction work

As advised at the end of last term, a number of building projects will be underway soon which have the potential to impact usual traffic flows before and after school. The carpark will shrink to around half its current size and will be a less safe place due to the comings and goings of contractors. To make things safer we request the following please ..

1. If you live on Pipiwai Road (including off-roads) please use the bottom bus bay for drop off and pick up of students or (as a less preferred option) walk your children across the road to the entrance at the side of the school hall.
2. If you live on the Matarau Road, Otakairangi Road, Rushbrook Road, Swamp Road side (including off-roads) you may continue to use the upper carpark but with caution please.
Hopefully this will make things a little easier and safer.
3. Please reduce speed when in the vicinity of the school and keep a keen eye out for children and vehicles.
4. If you have an appointment or business at school and need to park your car on site, it might be a good idea (where you have the option) of scheduling your appointment / business outside of the busy drop off and pick up times.

We will implement this plan shortly but thought we would give you a week or two to get your head around this and maybe have a practice run or two.

Please also remember

... that if you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand.

... any visitors to the school should report to the office first.

... parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

Term Headlice Inspection

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak. We are desperate for offers of help and so .. if you are able to help with inspections please phone Donna Cates here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

Request from our Librarian

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please connect with your child's teacher or give the office a call. We are than keen to have you on board.

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Some medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. Please contact us if unsure.

Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.

Scholastic Book Orders .. watch this space!

Friday Lunches

Starts next week. Parents will receive an order form for completion and return to school. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10

minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

Monday Lunches

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but I am always available down the track or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week. Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

Questions

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless these will never answer all of your questions and you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask. Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website.

Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

.. **drinking plenty of water.**

Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).

... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM is suggested for all children.

.. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.

.. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

Our "little things matter" person this week is ...

... Jessica Redwood who immediately changed direction when she noticed Mrs Dorahy struggling to the upper carpark with her arms full of cardboard boxes and (without being asked) assisted her all the way to the rubbish cage. Well done Jessica!

Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Plenty to get excited about this year... a special focus on mathematics and digital technologies, a new direction in the teaching of spelling, programmes to grow motivation and enjoyment in learning, maths intervention programmes, more after school labs (maths, science and literacy), strengthening of links with our local Maori community and more. We look forward to sharing more about these initiatives as the year unfolds. Welcome aboard. Great to be back!

Regards
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

WHANGAREI Physiotherapy Services

445 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei
Telephone 09 435 2299
Facsimile 09 435 2222
Kensington Gym Clinic
Telephone 09 459 5000

Community Notices

Wanted to Rent - 4brm house in Kamo/Kensington or nearby areas. Phone Lisa 4335092.

Flatmate Wanted - Lovely front room to rent, Hikurangi (opp Waro Rocks) \$80/wk (includes power & garage), no pets and no smoking. Phone Glenis 0220337812.

Wanted - Someone for housekeeping duties for home within Matarau School Area, 4 hours per week (2 x 2hour sessions) Phone Tim or Sandy on 4335622

Personalised Lunchboxes - Labels now reduced to \$10 for February only. See our display in the office foyer, email us on etcsigns@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page Etcetera - Signs by Design.

Missing - A friendly parrot (green, red beak and black ring on its neck). His name is Alex the Alexandrain. Most around a week ago from the Rushbrook Rd/Matarau Rd area. Any info please phone Murray Wright 0224771739.

Badminton - Due to the school hall being closed, there will be no after school Badminton this term. If you are interested in having your child attend New Zealand Badminton Academy groups in town, contact shane.ringrose@gmail.com for more details.

Hikurangi Rugby Club Rally Day - Saturday 22nd February 2014 from 10am-12. At the Rugby club. Come along and register to play in the upcoming season. Free milo breakfast to all registered players. Subs \$45 please bring along you child's birth certificate. Parents we need your help, if you are interested in being a coach or manager, please contact Kasey on 021542426.

Kamo Soccer - There will be Registration Days these will be on the 9th of February from 9am to 12pm. Also the 16th fro 9am to 11am. At these days we will be able to answer any queries and also take Eftpos and Cheque payments for 2014 fees.

This information sheet will be given out then as well. This year all player registrations are to be completed via the Internet form. Please follow this link to register for the 2014 Season. tinyurl.com/kamo2014reg
Kamo Soccer AGM. Tuesday the 11th of February 7.30pm at the Kamo Soccer Clubrooms. All welcome.

Rising Starz Performing Arts Trust is beginning another year with learning the craft of musical theatre through fun, movement and music. First session starts Sunday 7th February 1pm to 3.30pm at the Rising Starz building 105 Cameron St. Musical production at Forum North in June so the work begins now. Come along students aged 5 to 16 years in comfortable clothing and bring water bottle. For more information phone 437 3239 or email risingstarznz@gmail.com.

Dance Inc Northland - is offering limited places in Ballet, Jazz & Contemporary dance classes. Dance Inc Northland is Northland's largest dance school offering classes in our new Kamo studio. Studio is at 7A 3/4 Grant Street Kamo, in the newly renovated Griffin Hall. All ages catered from 3 years and over. Please phone 4308806, visit www.danceincnorthland.co.nz or e-maildanceincnorthland@gmail.com.

Northland Youth Theatre - Classes commence Monday February 10th. Juniors (9-11 years) - Tuesdays 4-5.30pm, **Intermediates** (12-13years) Mondays 4-5.30pm, **Seniors** (14-18 years) Tuesdays 6-8pm. To enrol or enquire about classes call 09 4384453, email us or find us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/northlandyouththeatre).

ArtBeat - The BIG Picnic FREE ENTRY Cafler Park, Whangarei, 10am-4pm Saturday February 22nd. Join us for live music, local performances, interactive art, displays and surprises!

Rippa Rugby - Hikurangi Rugby Club, Park Street, is hosting a Rippa Rugby Module on Fridays starting Friday 7 February to 14 March 2014. Two grades; 4.00-6.00pm Youth Mixed (5-6 year olds, 7-10 year olds and 11-12 year olds) and 6.00-8.00pm Open Mixed* (13 year olds +). This is a social module encouraging school teams, rugby teams, families, friends and work mates all to join in and be active. This would be great for pre-season rugby training. Rippa Rugby rules apply. Cost is a gold coin donation per game. To register contact Lisa on 4339589 or 0211630237 or dylan.lisajones@hotmail.com before Friday 7 February 2014.

Drama Classes, Performance and Presentation, Tuesday Whangarei from 3:30, Wednesday Ruakaka from 3:30, Develop confidence and creativity www.makingascene.co.nz, 021 1723568.

Free Parenting Programme - "Sowing the Seeds" Being the parent you want to be - and loving it! Helping your child regulate their emotions, How to get your child to listen to you, Listening and Encouraging, Problem Solving, Share your experiences and get support from other parents, Thursday mornings: Starting 27th Feb - 3rd April 2014, 9.30am-12.00 noon, Jigsaw North, 25 Otaika Rd, Whangarei. To register contact Jigsaw North 4388852

FRIDAY SCHOOL LUNCHES

HAVE A DAY OFF MAKING LUNCHES AND SUPPORT THE SCHOOL!

- ☺ Below is an order form for **Friday** lunches.
- ☺ These can be ordered for the term in advance, or weekly if desired.
- ☺ **Please have weekly orders placed at the school office by the Wednesday to receive an order the following Friday.**
- ☺ Please make cheques payable to Matarau School.

Thanks for supporting our fundraiser.

WEEKLY ORDER FORM – Term 1 2014

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

TERM ORDER - Total Amount Owing For Term 1 - 9 Wks Maximum Available

Items @ \$4.00 x _____ weeks =

Items @ \$5.00 x _____ weeks =

In the case of a child's absence from school and instructions to the contrary, we are unable to guarantee a refund or provide a lunch on a subsequent week.